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Message Text

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67
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /081 W
---------- 065705
R 111633Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3220
INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, GW
SUBJECT: FRG UNEMPLOYMENT: ABSOLUTE INCREASE BUT SEASONAL DECLINE

REF: (A) BONN 18679; (B) BONN 16990

SUMMARY: REFTEL A PROVIDED PRELIMINARY DATA ON FRG UNEMPLOYMENT FOR OCTOBER. MOST SIGNIFICANT IS ABSOLUTE INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT OF 45,000 TO 943,700 OR FROM 3.9 TO 4.1 PERCENT. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FIGURES, HOWEVER, INDICATE THE DECLINE IN UNEMPLOYMENT, BEGUN LAST MONTH, IS CONTINUING. END SUMMARY.

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1. UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES RELEASED BY THE FEDERAL

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EMPLOYMENT SERVICE SHOW THAT UNEMPLOYMENT ROSE LAST MONTH BY 45,000 OR 5 PERCENT TO 943,700, RAISING THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FROM 3.9 TO 4.1 PERCENT. AT THE SAME TIME, THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED JOB OPENINGS DECLINED BY 5.2 PERCENT TO 221,000. IN ADDITION, THE NUMBER OF WORKERS ON PART TIME JOBS ROSE BY 45,500 TO 139,000, FROM MID-SEPTEMBER TO MID-OCTOBER.

2. UNEMPLOYMENT FOR FOREIGN WORKERS ROSE 4,400 OVER SEPTEMBER LEVELS TO 83,800 OR 4.0 PERCENT. THIS IS 51,000 OR 37.9 PERCENT LOWER THAN IN OCTOBER 1975.

3. UNEMPLOYMENT FOR YOUTH (UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE) ROSE SLIGHTLY BY 1,100 OR 1.2 PERCENT TO 97,200. FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE MONTH THE NUMBER OF FEMALE UNEMPLOYED EXCEEDED THAT OF MALES (BY A MARGIN OF 492,796 TO 450,890).

4. BROKEN DOWN BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA, UNEMPLOYMENT VARIED BETWEEN A LOW OF 2.9 PERCENT IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG AND A HIGH OF 4.9 PERCENT IN LOWER SAXONY AND BREMEN.

5. ON A SEASONALLY ADJUSTED BASIS, HOWEVER, UNEMPLOY-MENT DID DECLINE DURING OCTOBER FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT MONTH, DOWN 6,000 FROM SEPTEMBER'S LEVEL TO 1,042,000. (FOR COMPARISON, OCTOBER 1975'S LEVEL WAS 1,160,0-0.) ALSO SEASONALLY ADJUSTED, THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED JOB OPENINGS INCREASED BY 13,000 TO 234,000 AFTER A DECLINE OF 12,000 IN SEPTEMBER. IN OCTOBER 1975, THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED JOB OPENINGS, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED, WAS 221,000.

6. IN RELEASING THESE FIGURES, FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE PRESIDENT, JOSEF STINGL, COMMENTED THAT THEY NOT ONLY REFLECT THE EXPECTED SEASONAL CHANGES, BUT ALSO INDICATE THAT THE FRG'S SLIGHT ECONOMIC RECOVERY IS CONTINUING, ALTHOUGH NOT AS RAPIDLY AS MANY WOULD HOPE. HE POINTED OUT THAT UNEMPLOYMENT HAD INCREASED PARTICULARLY IN THE CATERING TRADE, IN OUT-DOOR OCCUPATIONS, AND IN CLERICAL OCCUPATIONS WHERE UNCLASSIFIED

THE TERMINATION DATE AT THE END OF A QUARTER HAD LED TO HIGHER DISMISSALS AMONG WHITE COLLAR WORKERS.

7. COMMENT: REACTION AMONG THE POLITICAL PARTIES WAS DIVIDED AS USUAL. SPD AND FDP EXPERTS REFERRED TO NORMAL SEASONAL TRENDS, WHILE CDU CHAIRMAN HELMUT KOHL STATED THAT THIS "DEPRESSING RESULT" WAS CAUSED BY THE "FALSE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POLICY OF THE SPD/FDP

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